

What is Claimed Is:

1. A circuit breaker comprising:
a case;
a frame fixedly disposed within said case, said frame including
a stop;
separable contacts; and
an operating mechanism for opening and closing said separable
contacts, said operating mechanism including an operating handle, a closed position,
an open position, a linkage having a first end and a second end, and a link pivotally
mounted to said case and to the first end of said linkage, the stop of said frame
engaging and stopping movement of said link in said closed position.

2. The circuit breaker of Claim 1 wherein said separable contacts
include a fixed contact and a movable contact; wherein said operating mechanism
further includes a movable contact arm carrying said movable contact; and wherein
the second end of said linkage is pivotally mounted to said movable contact arm, said
linkage moving said movable contact arm to provide the closed and open positions of
said operating mechanism.

3. The circuit breaker of Claim 1 wherein said frame further
includes a base and two parallel sides, with said stop attached to said base and being
disposed between said parallel sides.

4. The circuit breaker of Claim 3 wherein said operating handle
includes a pair of elongated arms within said case, said arms being disposed between
the parallel sides of said frame, said stop and said link being disposed between said
elongated arms; and wherein said operating mechanism further includes a pair of
extension springs and a pivot between said link and the first end of said linkage, with
each one of said extension springs extending between a corresponding one of said
elongated arms and said pivot.

5. The circuit breaker of Claim 1 wherein said linkage includes a
protrusion; and wherein said stop engages the protrusion of said linkage and stops
movement of said linkage in said open position.

6. A circuit breaker comprising:
a case;

a frame fixedly disposed within said case, said frame including a tab;

separable contacts; and

an operating mechanism for opening and closing said separable contacts, said operating mechanism including an operating handle, a closed position, an open position, a first link having a first end and a second end, a second link pivotally mounted to the second end of said first link, and a third link pivotally mounted to said case and to the first end of said first link, the tab of said frame engaging and stopping movement of said third link in said closed position.

7. The circuit breaker of Claim 6 wherein said frame further includes a base and two parallel sides, with said tab disposed from said base and between said parallel sides.

8. The circuit breaker of Claim 7 wherein said operating handle includes a pair of elongated arms within said case, said arms being disposed between the parallel sides of said frame, said tab and said third link being disposed between said elongated arms.

9. The circuit breaker of Claim 8 wherein said operating mechanism further includes a pair of extension springs and a pivot between said third link and the first end of said first link, with each one of said extension springs extending between a corresponding one of said elongated arms and said pivot.

10. The circuit breaker of Claim 6 wherein said tab has a first end and a second end with a surface which is parallel to said base, with said surface of the second end of said tab engaging and stopping movement of said third link in said closed position.

11. The circuit breaker of Claim 6 wherein said second link includes a protrusion; and wherein said tab engages the protrusion of said second link and stops movement of said second link in said open position.

12. The circuit breaker of Claim 6 wherein said case has an opening; wherein said operating mechanism further includes a pivot between said first and third links, at least one extension spring for moving said operating mechanism to close said separable contacts, and an operating handle for operating said operating mechanism, said operating handle including a first portion extending through the

opening of said case and a second portion within said case, said at least one extension spring extending between said second portion and said pivot.

13. The circuit breaker of Claim 12 wherein said operating mechanism further includes a movable contact arm; and wherein said first link is pivotally mounted to said pivot at the first end of said first link, said second link having a first end and a second end, said second link being pivotally mounted to the second end of said first link at the first end of said second link and being pivotally mounted to said movable contact arm at the second end of said second link.

14. The circuit breaker of Claim 13 wherein said operating handle has an open position and a closed position, said at least one extension spring being extended as said operating handle moves from the open position toward the closed position thereof, in order to load the first and second links of said operating mechanism; and wherein said separable contacts have a closed position and an open position, said separable contacts including a fixed contact, which is fixed within said case, and a movable contact, which is carried by said movable contact arm.

15. The circuit breaker of Claim 14 wherein said pivot is a first pivot; wherein said third link has a first end and a second end; wherein said operating handle further includes a second pivot between said first and second portions, said third link being pivotally mounted to said second pivot at the first end of said third link and being pivotally mounted to said first pivot at the second end of said third link; and wherein said at least one extension spring applies a force to move said third link.

16. The circuit breaker of Claim 15 wherein said frame further includes an opening for said second pivot.

17. The circuit breaker of Claim 16 wherein said frame further includes an opening for a third pivot; and wherein said movable contact arm is pivotally mounted to said third pivot.

18. The circuit breaker of Claim 6 wherein said operating mechanism further includes a fourth link in parallel with said third link, said fourth link being pivotally mounted to the first end of said first link.

19. The circuit breaker of Claim 6 wherein said frame further includes a base and two parallel sides having a first end and a second end, with said

tab attached to said base and being disposed between said parallel sides; and wherein said operating mechanism further includes an operating handle pivotally mounted to the first end of the parallel sides of said base, and a movable contact arm pivotally mounted to the second end of said parallel sides.

20. The circuit breaker of Claim 6 wherein said circuit breaker is a telecommunication circuit breaker.

21. The circuit breaker of Claim 6 wherein said separable contacts include a fixed contact and a movable contact; wherein said operating mechanism further includes a movable contact arm carrying said movable contact; wherein said second link has a first end and a second end, the first end of said second link being pivotally mounted to the second end of said first link, the second end of said second link being pivotally mounted to said movable contact arm, said second link moving said movable contact arm to provide the closed and open positions of said operating mechanism; wherein said frame includes a base and two sides, each of the sides of said frame having a surface; and wherein said movable contact arm includes a pin which engages the surfaces of the sides of said frame in the open position of said operating mechanism.